

Message Text

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1. SUMMARY: THE MAY 30 EC ENERGY COUNCIL CONFOUNDED MANY
PESSIMISTIC OBSERVERS BY APPROVING TWO REGULATIONS ON
FINANCIAL AID FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON ENERGY SAVING
AND FOR PROJECTS TO EXPLOIT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AS
ANTICIPATED PARA 7 REF A. AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE
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THE DANISH PRESIDENCY AGREED TO SEPARATE THESE TWO
MEASURES FROM ITS FIVE-POINT PACKAGE AND BECAUSE GERMANY
WITHDREW ITS OPPOSITION TO THESE MEASURES WHEN THE TWO
FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS WERE AMENDED TO REQUIRE COUNCIL
ADOPTION IN DECEMBER 1978 OF SEPARATE REGULATIONS TO COMMIT
EC FUNDS AND TO GIVE THE COUNCIL THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW
AND APPROVE THE ACTUAL PROJECTS SELECTED BY THE EC

COMMISSION. THE COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE OTHER THREE MEASURES IN THE DANISH PACKAGE (SUBSIDIES FOR INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN STEAM COAL, IMPROVEMENT OF THE EC PETROLEUM REFINERY SITUATION, COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR JOINT HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION PROJECTS) AND ON COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR 1985. THE FRENCH DELEGATION IS TO PREPARE A STATEMENT ON EC ENERGY GOALS IN PREPARATION FOR JULY 6-7 EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN BREMEN AND THE BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT. THE MINISTERS ALSO ASKED EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER TO AMPLIFY HIS SUGGESTION REGARDING EC ASSISTANCE IN THE ENERGY AREA TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR POSSIBLE EARLY COUNCIL APPROVAL. THE MINISTERS FORMALLY ADOPTED THE DECISIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT EUROPEAN TORUS (JET) PROJECT AND HELD A GENERAL AND INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. DANISH ENERGY PACKAGE:

ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, BRUNNER OPENED COUNCIL DEBATE WITH A STRONG PLEA FOR ACTION ON THE "BALANCED INTEREST PACKAGE" OF ENERGY MEASURES PUT FORWARD BY THE DANISH PRESIDENCY (REF A AND B). BRUNNER EMPHASIZED THAT ADOPTION OF THE PACKAGE, AS WELL AS COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR 1985, WOULD STRENGTHEN THE EC'S POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY QUESTIONS FOR THE BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN JULY, PARTICULAR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LY WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT REACTION BY THE MINISTERS TO BRUNNER'S PRESENTATION WAS MIXED, AND A GERMAN PERMDEL OFFICER TOLD MISSION THAT ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER LAMBSBORFF, IN PARTICULAR, EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ON THE URGENCY OF COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE ENERGY AREA FOR THE BONN SUMMIT, POINTING OUT THAT EC MEMBER STATES HAVE ALREADY ADOPTED ENERGY POLICIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, WHILE THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO PUT INTO EFFECT ITS AMBITIOUS ENERGY PROGRAM. HE COMPARED UNFAVORABLY THE EFFECTS OF HIGH US ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND THE LOW PRICE LEVELS FOR ENERGY IN THE US RELATIVE TO THE SITUATION IN THE EC..

3. FULL AGREEMENT ON THE DANISH PACKAGE WAS PREVENTED BY MEMBER STATE DIFFERENCES ON THE STEAM COAL SUBSIDY AND PETROLEUM REFINERY SECTOR PROPOSALS (PARA 2, REF A). A DANISH PERMDEL OFFICER SAID THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM IS THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY WILL APPROVE NOTHING FOR COAL UNLESS THEY GET EVERYTHING THEY HAVE DEMANDED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE REFINERY SITUATION. IN A MEMORANDUM TO THE COUNCIL, THE ITALIANS HAVE ASKED FOR COMMUNITY SUB-

SIDIES FOR REDUCTION OF SURPLUS REFINING CAPACITY BASED
UPON PAYMENT OF A FIXED AMOUNT PER TON OF ELIMINATED
CAPACITY. ITALY INSISTS THAT ANY FUTURE INCREASE IN
REFINING ACTIVITY IN THE EC SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE
MEMBER STATES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT UNUSED REFINING
CAPACITY. FRANCE SUPPORTED ITALIAN VIEWS ON THE REFINERY
PROPOSALS. UK ENERGY SECRETARY BENN STRONGLY OPPOSED THE
REFINERY PROPOSAL, POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY
SINCE THE OIL INDUSTRY HAD ALREADY MADE CONSIDERABLE
PROGRESS IN RESOLVING ITS PROBLEMS AND CHARGING, ACCORDING
TO PERMDEL OFFICIALS, THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN COMMISSION
REGULATION OF THE EC OIL REFINERY INDUSTRY AND IN SERIOUS

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INTERFERENCE WITH AN IMPORTANT BRITISH NATIONAL INTEREST.
BENN ALSO MADE AN OBSCURE ALLUSION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE
PROPOSAL WOULD REVERSE RECENT BRITISH PROGRESS IN EX-
TENDING GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE OIL COMPANIES EXPLOR-
ING FOR OIL IN THE NORTH SEA. GERMANY ALSO EXPRESSED
RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE DIRIGIST ASPECTS OF THE
REFINERY PROPOSAL.

4. THE DANISH PRESIDENCY DRAFTED A SHORT AND BLAND COMPROMISE "CONCLUSION" LIMITED TO ENDORSING THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE EC REFINERY PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH ACCEPTABLE TO GERMANY, THIS DRAFT WAS IMMEDIATELY REJECTED BY ITALY AS BEING TOTALLY INADEQUATE AND--IN REACTION--BY THE UK AS GOING TOO FAR. (THE DANISH OFFICER THOUGHT THAT BENN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, IF THE UK COULD HAVE OBTAINED SOMETHING ON COAL.) BENN TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT HE OPPOSED THE REFINERY PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT WOULD LEAD TO EC CONTROL OVER UK PETROLEUM POLICY. A SENIOR COMMISSION OFFICIAL TOLD THE MISSION THAT IN VIEW OF THE OPPOSITION EXPRESSED AT THE COUNCIL SESSION THE COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY NOT PRESS AHEAD WITH PLANS TO "RATIONALIZE" THE REFINERY INDUSTRY WITH THE VOLUNTARY COOPERATION OF THE INDUSTRY (REF G) BUT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE WITH PLANS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN JUNE. THE COMMISSION, AT THE SUGGESTION OF SOME ENERGY MINISTERS, IS PLANNING TO REVIEW MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO LIMIT PETROLEUM PRODUCT IMPORTS IN THE EC.

5. REGARDING THE STEAM COAL SUBSIDY SCHEME, THE FRG MAINTAINED ITS INSISTENCE ON INCREASED EC SUBSIDIES FOR COKING COAL AS WELL. GERMANY ALSO ASKED FOR AN INCREASE TO 15 EUROPEAN UNITS OF ACCOUNT (ONE EUA CURRENTLY EQUALS \$1.22) IN THE PER TON SUBSIDY ON STEAM COAL EXPORTS INSTEAD OF THE 10 EUA PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE MORE MEANINGFUL AID TO HIGH-COST GERMAN COAL. FRANCE HAD PROPOSED A REDUCTION TO 2 EUA PER TON INTENDED TO COVER ONLY THE HIGHER COST OF TRANSPORTING EC INLAND-PRODUCED COAL TO POWER PLANTS COMPARED TO THE COST OF IMPORTING COAL BY SHIP.

6. THE UK AND GERMANY HAD THE MOST SERIOUS RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE MEASURE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION. THE DANISH OFFICER SAID AGREEMENT WAS CLEARLY NOT POSSIBLE DURING THE BRIEF COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MEASURE WHEN ITALY ALSO OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF TWO OFFSHORE EXPLORATION PROJECTS ONLY FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IRELAND AND GREENLAND AND NONE FOR ITALY. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MEASURE, AS WELL AS THE COAL SUBSIDY AND REFINERY PROPOSALS, AT FUTURE MEET-

INGS OF THE ENERGY COUNCIL ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT COREPER AND OTHER COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES WILL WORK WITH THE COMMISSION TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN THE MEANTIME.

7. THE ENERGY MINISTERS DID TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION ON THE ENERGY SAVING AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROPOSALS:

(A) ENERGY SAVING:

THE COUNCIL AGREED TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION ON GRANTING FINANCIAL AID TO PROJECTS IN ENERGY SAVINGS (REFS D AND E). AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE WHEN, AT GERMAN INSISTENCE, THE REGULATION WAS AMENDED TO EXCLUDE ANY REFERENCE TO THE LEVEL OF FUNDING INVOLVED AND TO HAVE THE MEASURE COME INTO FORCE ONLY AFTER THE COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED A SEPARATE REGULATION FIXING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF EC FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED FOR THESE PROJECTS, AND ONLY AFTER THE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED, AT THE EXPECTED REQUEST OF A MEMBER STATE, THE FIRST SERIES OF PROJECTS SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION. COUNCIL DECISIONS ON THE FINANCIAL CEILING AND ON THE FIRST SET OF PROJECTS ARE TO BE ON THE BASIS OF UNANIMITY, BUT DECISIONS IN THE EVENT A MEMBER STATE QUESTIONS THE COMMISSION'S CHOICE OF SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS ARE TO BE BY QUALIFIED MAJORITY (WEIGHTED) VOTING. THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT THE NECESSARY PROPOSALS IN TIME FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS DECEMBER 1978 SESSION. A GERMAN PERMDEL OFFICER REMARKED THAT ALTHOUGH LAMSDORFF'S APPROVAL OF THIS MEASURE AND THAT FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES (SEE "B" BELOW) HAD CAUGHT EVERYONE--INCLUDING MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION--BY SURPRISE BECAUSE OF KNOWN OPPOSITION TO THESE MEASURES IN BONN, IN FACT GERMANY HAS RETAINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEVERAL BRAKES TO KEEP THESE TWO PROGRAMS FROM GOING FORWARD IN THE EVENT GERMAN BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL OFFICIALS REFUSE TO AUTHORIZE THE FRG TO APPROVE THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.

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(B) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES:

THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FRAMEWORK REGULATION ON FINANCIAL
GRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES
(REFS A AND B). AS WITH THE REGULATION ON ENERGY SAVINGS,
THE FRG OBTAINED COUNCIL AGREEMENT THAT THE REGULATION
WOULD NOT ENTER INTO FORCE UNTIL AFTER THE COUNCIL HAS
DECIDED ON THE FIRST SERIES OF PROJECTS AND HAS APPROVED
A SEPARATE REGULATION ON OVERALL FUNDING WHICH TAKES INTO
ACCOUNT THE INTER-RELATION OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMS. THE
COMMISSION IS TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THESE TWO
POINTS IN TIME FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE DECEMBER ENERGY
COUNCIL, AT WHICH TIME THE MINISTERS WILL TAKE UP THE TWO
IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS ON GEOTHERMAL PROJECTS AND SOLID
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FUEL LIQUIFICATION AND GASIFICATION (REF A). AT FRENCH
INSISTENCE, THE COMMISSION IS ALSO TO TRY TO PRESENT
ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS AT THAT TIME FOR
PROJECTS ON SOLAR ENERGY (OF PARTIUCULAR INTEREST TO
FRANCE) AS WELL AS ON WAVE ENERGY, TIDAL ENERGY, AND WIND
ENERGY, IF POSSIBLE.

8. 1985 ENERGY OBJECTIVES:

THE COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON

COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR 1985 (REFS A AND E), WHICH WAS LINKED BY ITALY WITH AGREEMENT ON THE REFINERY SECTOR PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH DENMARK DID NOT ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS MEASURE, BRUNNER WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM FRANCE, SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THESE TARGETS BE APPROVED BEFORE THE JULY SUMMITS. THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT FRANCE WOULD DRAFT A GENERAL STATEMENT ON EC ENERGY GOALS TO BE APPROVED BY THE JUNE 27 COUNCIL SESSION OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS.

9. JET PROJECT:

ON THE BASIS OF THE DECISION BY THE OCTOBER 25, 1977 RESEARCH COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH THE JET PROJECT IN CULHAM, ENGLAND (REF F), THE COMMISSION SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL A PROPOSED DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "JOINT EUROPEAN TORUS JOINT UNDERTAKING" PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 45 OF THE EURATOM TREATY. THIS DECISION WAS APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COUNCIL WITHOUT DEBATE, ALONG WITH A DECISION TO INCLUDE THE JET PROJECT IN THE 1976-1980 EURATOM RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM. WITH THESE LAST LEGAL FORMALITIES OUT OF THE WAY, ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION CAN BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THE JET PROJECT.

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10. NUCLEAR ENERGY:

SEVEN MINISTERS (EXCLUDING LUXEMBOURG AND ITALY) READ PREPARED STATEMENTS LARGELY CONCERNED WITH FAST BREEDER REACTORS, NUCLEAR REPROCESSING AND NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL (REF A), BUT THERE WAS NO OPEN DISCUSSION AND NO CONCLUSIONS WERE DRAWN. ACCORDING TO PERMDEL SOURCES, BENN STRESSED THAT MAJOR DECISION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY ARE A NATIONAL, NOT A COMMUNITY, PREROGATIVE AND THIS VIEW, ACCORDING TO A BRITISH PERMDEL OFFICER, WAS IMPLICITLY SUPPORTED BY THE OTHER STATEMENTS. FRENCH INDUSTRY MINISTER GIRAUD SAID THAT WHILE THESE ARE INDEED NATIONAL DECISIONS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE COMMUNITY ADOPTED AN "ATTITUDE" TOWARD SOME OF THE NUCLEAR ISSUES. ALL STATEMENTS MADE CLEAR THAT OPTIONS AS TO WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING AND FAST BREEDER REACTORS SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN AND NOT IMPOSED FROM OUTSIDE THE EC. THE UK, IRELAND, DENMARK, AND NETHERLANDS SAID THEY HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR, WHILE THE LATTER TWO COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED TO RESOLVE FIRST THE NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEM. ALL STATEMENTS, EXCEPT THAT BY THE FRENCH, NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY OF NUCLEAR DECISIONS.

11. ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:

ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, BRUNNER OUTLINED TO

THE COUNCIL HIS PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATING WITH LDC'S IN THE ENERGY AREA, PRIMARILY TO DEVELOP INDIGENOUS ENERGY SOURCES, EMPHASIZING THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT ADVICE, PARTICULARLY ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS ENERGY INVESTMENT. ACCORDING TO PERMDEL SOURCES, HE SUGGESTED THAT EC ASSISTANCE IN THE ENERGY AREA SHOULD BE OFFERED TO THE ACP STATES. BENN REPORTEDLY STRONGLY ENDORSED BRUNNER'S PROPOSAL, AND THE COMMISSION WAS ASKED TO PREPARE A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT FOR THE JUNE 27 FOREIGN MINI MINISTERS COUNCIL, WITH A VIEW TO ITS BEING DISCUSSED AT THE JULY 6-7 EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND POSSIBLY INTRODUCED AS PART LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE EC POSITION FOR THE LOME II NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ACP STATES WHICH BEGIN JULY 24 (REF H).

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12. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THE MAY 30 COUNCIL WAS ONLY
ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON TWO FINANCIAL AID
MEASURES (WHICH ARE STILL SUBJECT TO FURTHER INTERNAL
NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS) EXEMPLIFIES THE RELUCTANCE
OF THE MEMBER STATES TO TRANSFER MUCH AUTHORITY OVER
ENERGY FROM NATIONAL JURISDICTION TO THAT OF THE COMMUNITY.
FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON BRUNNER'S
PETROLEUM REFINERY PROPOSAL WILL PROBABLY BE WELCOMED BY
US OIL COMPANIES OPERATING IN EUROPE. OPPOSITION TO THIS
PROPOSAL BY THE MEMBER STATES, PARTICULARLY THE UK, MAY
STRENGTHEN THE RELUCTANCE OF THESE COMPANIES TO COOPERATE
WITH THE COMMISSION IF IT SHOULD DECIDE TO CONTINUE WITH
ITS EARLIER INTENTIONS TO "RATIONALIZE" THE EC OIL
INDUSTRY, BASED ON THE COMMISSION'S EXISTING AUTHORITY.
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